



Rockport Millbrook Meadow Committee

Town Hall, Rockport, MA 01966

Charmaine Blanchard
Samuel W. Coulbourn, Chair
Marcia Lombardo
Shannon Mason, Vice Chair
Beverly Robbins

Nathan Sotis
Barbara Sparks
John Sparks
Frederick H. Tarr III

Minutes of Meeting, Wednesday, April 3, 2013

Community Room, Rockport Police Headquarters

7:04 p.m. Chairman Sam Coulbourn called the meeting to order. Members present were Marcia Lombardo, Shannon Mason, Barbara and John Sparks and Ted Tarr. Charmaine Blanchard, Beverly Robbins and Nate Sotis were absent. Gunilla Caulfield, Trustee, was also present. Zenas Seppala was present as a visitor.

1. The minutes of March 13, 2013 were approved. (John moved, Marcia seconded, all voted to approve.)

2. Update Millbrook Meadow Restoration planning progress. John reported on status of Community Preservation application, including answers to CPC questions. He coordinated answers with DPW, Sam and Eric Hutchins, and forwarded them to CPC. We plan to meet with CPC again on May 14th. Shannon asked when we will know whether CPC approves our request. John replied that we will make the case, and if they are agreed, CPC will “make the sale” at Town Meeting. John and Barbara will not be present for the May 14th meeting.

3. Discussion of Public Visioning Session. Members concurred that the session was very effective and successful. John said it was good that we kept it very general and did not dip into great detail. Marcia said that she thought that people were all on the same wavelength. Gunilla suggested that there should be more paper “dots” so that people could vote for more things. Visitor Seppala said that he put all his dots on “skating” on the Pond. John suggested that we might employ a similar brainstorming technique to Fund raising.

4. Discuss April 6th Town Meeting and Warrant Article. Barbara showed members the MMC handout in the Voters Booklet that will be available at Town Meeting. Shannon brought in enlarged photos and map of the Meadow and Pond that she and her husband, Darren, had mounted. These will be displayed at Town Meeting. Members

agreed that this was an excellent, very professional display. John agreed to give a brief speech representing the Committee as the proponent of Article I at Town Meeting.

5. Discussion of Dam “Opening Ceremony”. Saturday, May 25th: Beverly has talked with Council on Aging (COA) and others about this event. COA plans to dump some 700 rubber ducks in the Mill Brook at 11 a.m. for their annual fund-raiser. We propose to have a short Dam Opening Ceremony at 10:30 a.m., inviting Senator Bruce Tarr, Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante and Selectmen to conduct ceremony. Director Joe Parisi should also be present. Sam will discuss this with Town Administrator and coordinate with members to arrange this event.

6. Motif No. 1 Day. Prepare to host table at Motif No. 1 Day, May 18. Shannon will discuss best location for our table with Sarah Kelly. We will primarily be enlisting “Friends” of the Meadow at the table. Need to think of other things, like raffle, handouts, Millbrook Meadow and Mill Pond mementos.

7. Election of Chairman, Vice-chair and Secretary.

Chair: Sam was nominated by John, seconded by Marcia. Ted moved that nominations be closed, Shannon seconded. All voted to approve, Sam abstaining. All voted for Sam as Chair, Sam abstaining.

Vice Chair: Shannon was nominated by Barbara, Ted seconded. Ted moved that nominations be closed, Marcia seconded. All approved. All voted for Shannon for Vice Chairwoman, Shannon abstaining.

Since possible candidates for secretary were not present, Marcia moved to table that election until the next meeting. Shannon seconded. All voted to approve.

8. Schedule: Wednesday, July 10th and 24th: Story Hour. Library hosts ~70 children from North Shore at Reading Hour in the Meadow.

9. New Business.

Knotweed. Sam briefed members on meeting he had with Knotweed Eradication Team (KET) from Rockport Garden Club. Members discussed use of herbicides and excavation for eradication. The KET would like our support to request \$2500 from CPC for this. All voted to support use of herbicide approved by Conservation Commission for area separate from northwest side of Mill Pond by cleared strip. Shannon will attend meeting of CPC with KET on Tuesday, April 9th to express MMC support.

10. Cleanup May 11th. After discussion indicated that April 20th will be too soon for a cleanup, since the topsoil and grass will not be grown yet, Shannon moved to change the date for Cleanup to May 11th. She will be in charge of this event. Members are urged to come and help clean up the Meadow from 8 to 11 a.m. Bring rakes, shears, loppers and neighbors! Shannon will arrange for articles in GDT “Goings on” or Calendar. Sam will circulate invitation to Friends of the Meadow and Mill Pond.

11. Adjourn. 8:31 p.m. Marcia moved to adjourn, Shannon seconded. All voted to adjourn.

12. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 22nd at Trustees' Room, Library.

Approved:

Samuel W. Coulbourn

**Copy to: Town Administrator
Director of Public Works
Laura Hallowell, KET**